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Good morning Senator Doyle, Representative Baram, Senator Witkos, Representative Carter and the distinguished members of the General Law Committee. For the record I am Rep Diana Urban, representing the 43rd district. I am here to testify in opposition of SB 84 AN ACT CONCERNING CADMIUM IN CHILDREN'S JEWELRY.

Cadmium is a Grade one carcinogen (the most toxic classification) it causes kidney damage, bone loss, neurological developmental problems and is a hormone disrupter. It is listed # 7 on the Center for Disease Control's list of the 250 most toxic substances. That puts cadmium ahead of arsenic. It is known as a PBT (Persistent Bio-accumulative Toxin).

In 1990, the State of Connecticut banned it along with mercury, lead, and hexavalent chromium from packaging material to prevent these toxic materials from ending up in our landfills.

In 2010 after finding children's jewelry that contained more that 55% cadmium (the jewelry in question was based on the popular "Princess and the Frog" movie), the Children's Committee decided to look into the issue. We found that there were instances where some children's jewelry charms were 95% cadmium. We decided to act and passed a bill that year banning cadmium in Children's jewelry at greater than 75 ppm effective in 2014.We are introducing a bill to consider pushing that date out while getting more information on the various allowable levels that other states have in statute

To date, 6 States have banned cadmium in children's jewelry at various concentrations: Illinois at greater than 75ppm and they have designated it a priority chemical, Minnesota at Greater than 75 ppm, Maryland at greater than 75 ppm, and Washington State at greater than 40ppm California 75 ppm surface, 300 ppm total metal content, and

Connecticut at greater than 75 ppm, Rhode Island is the only state to adopt the ASTM standard.

How did a toxic metal show up in our children's jewelry?A little research revealed that after the federal government passed the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA) which heavily regulated lead, foreign suppliers (read China) started looking for a cheap substitute. Enter inexpensive and abundant cadmium. There are very weak solubility standards for cadmium in toys in the CPSA but jewelry is completely left out. Any parent knows how little kids like to suck on jewelry and often even taste or swallow it.

Bruce Fowler a cadmium specialist and toxicologist from the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention said "There is nothing positive you can say about this metal, it is a poison"

In discussing this with Washington State's Toxics Policy Coordinator Carol Kraege we observed that the primary goal is to protect children's health. This can be best accomplished by finding the lowest amount of cadmium that a product can have before a product fails. She has not had any reports that 40ppm is too low. By regulating cadmium at the lowest level we impact the effects of multiple sources of cadmium exposures as well as synergistic effects of small cadmium exposures with other toxic chemicals that we all experience. That is why Connecticut banned it from packaging material: to prevent this toxic metal from showing up in our landfills

In 2006 a four year old boy died in Minnesota after ingesting a lead charm. In a particularly heart breaking scenario, the child went on a play date and when he got home began feeling ill. As his Mom had no knowledge of any small objects he might have swallowed she thought it was a "tummy bug" When he continued to get worse, she took him to the ER where they treated it as the flu. He got increasingly sick and then his body started shutting down. Desperate for answers, they finally they did an X ray and saw the object. It was too late. After 4 days of suffering the child died. His death was a major contributor to the Government regulating lead. My point is that cadmium is just as toxic and in some cases more toxic than lead.

The ASTM standard requires a migration test if there is a total metal test greater that 75 ppm for surface coating and greater than 300 ppm for the whole product. The migration test is basically an acid digestion test for 24 hours to mimic what would happen if the child swallowed one piece of jewelry. Researchers at Ashland University have noted that the jewelry can stay in the stomach for a much longer period of time and that the test does not cover a piece of jewelry that has been "distressed" or the surface damaged. The test can be costly and most of the industry is doing a total metal test

The research on cadmium is complicated but it really comes down to this: Cadmium causes cancer, how much cadmium do you want your children eating?

Michael Harbut a Doctor who has treated adult victims of cadmium poisoning and is director of the Environmental Cancer Program at the Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit said "In my view, the answer should be none"